



# Kansas Vector-borne Disease Communications Protocol

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) may issue a media release preceded by a Kansas Health Alert Network (KS-HAN) message one-hour prior for the following situations:

- Announcement of mosquito surveillance season starting, usually mid-May.
- First West Nile virus (WNV) high-risk level designation in any region.
- First WNV positive mosquito pool(s) of the season in any region.
- First human WNV case in Kansas of the season.
- An increase, above baseline, for any vector-borne disease.
- Any unusual vector-borne disease test result in humans, animals, or vectors.
- Any other matter KDHE, local health departments, or other agencies determines to be of importance to protect One Health.

KDHE will attempt to avoid media releases on Fridays except for when the public's health takes precedent (e.g. large numbers of WNV positive mosquito pools before holiday weekend). KDHE Communications staff will work with the Communications staff of the Local Health Departments (LHD), or other agencies, specifically named in the release. LHDs and other agencies will be notified prior to the KS-HAN when their county or agency is specifically named in the message.

If a local health department has specific questions about media releases, calls should be directed to the epidemiology hotline at (877) 427-7317 or the KDHE communications office at (785) 296-1317.